

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Technical Advisory Committee

July 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Contact: Guangyu Wang, 231-576-6639

Attendance

TAC Members

Steve Bay (Chair)	Present
Mas Dojiri (Vice Chair)	Absent
Rich Ambrose	Present
John Dorsey	Present
Phyllis Grifman	Absent
Karen Martin	Present
Dan Pondella	Present
Eric Stein	Absent

SMBNEP Staff Present

Guangyu Wang
Tom Ford
Karina Johnston
Melodie Grubbs

Members of the Public

Erica Yelensky, US EPA (via phone)
Phil Markle, LACSD
Walter Lamb

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Steve Bay called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Roundtable introductions followed.

2. Public Comment

Walter Lamb commented on the need to answering scientific questions related to Ballona Wetlands restoration and asked TAC to take positions.

3. General Business

- a. Order of Agenda: Guangyu Wang recommended, and members accepted to move agenda item #5 before #4.
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved with addition of Chris Enyart's last name and acknowledgement of Rainer's retirement. Moved by: Rich Ambrose, Seconded by: Karen Martin.
- c. Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

Steve Bay reported the last Governing Board meeting he attended and announced his retirement at the end of the year. He suggested that the next TAC meeting have an agenda item to discuss membership and election of new chair. Guangyu Wang mentioned the adoption of the CCMP Action Plan by Governing Board last December and the EPA program evaluation with presentation and site visit last month.

Guangyu Wang invited Tom Ford to give an update on activities carried out by the Bay Foundation in accordance to the SMBNEP annual work plan. Tom mentioned his trip to

Congress to testify on behalf of the NEP and potential increase in federal NEP funding, the 3rd UCLA senior practicum on study of kelp's effects on climate change, close out of Malibu post-restoration monitoring, CRI's summer internship program, beach restoration projects, and technical support for sea urchin problem management in Farralon Islands and Canada.

Steve Bay asked and suggested circulation to TAC members report on CRI activities.

d. Member Comment

Karen Martin mentioned the proposed new closure season and bag limits for grunions catches.

Rich Ambrose mentioned OPC grant solicitation and a project proposal for rockweed restoration.

Dan Pondella mentioned the Palos Verdes shelf reef restoration project has obtained all permits.

Steve Bay mentioned the completion of the new toxicology exposure lab and new staff recruited with expertise in studying storm water BMP effectiveness at SCCWRP.

4. Habitat Subgroups Updates and Discussion: Bay Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) habitat-specific indicator/index development (original item 5 on the agenda)

Karina Johnston introduced this item. She summarized what have been done by work groups and work remaining, mainly to finalize the indicators in each category and consolidate and use indices if possible, as well as to complete the list of climate change stressors. Member discussion followed.

Summary of discussion and member recommendations:

- Recommended additions to the soft bottom and rocky intertidal subgroups
- Sandy Beach: need index for indicators in the stressor category
- Wetlands: has good indices and data for major wetlands, but not small ones.
- Rocky intertidal: has biological condition index, but very limited data for habitat in the Bay, and no data on intertidal fish.
- Rocky reef: has biological condition index, but data is limited for PV area only (no data in Malibu area)
- Runoff discharge a major data gap for rocky reef, and rocky and sandy intertidal habitats
- Pelagic system: there are potential indices but the lack supporting data (e.g. ichthyoplankton)
- Freshwater: indices for watershed conditions are in good shape. Algal index exists but no data.
- Soft bottom: there is sensibility issue with the fish community/response index. Should look into the potential use of sediment quality objectives (SQO) for soft bottom habitat. There is also lack of stressors that truly have biological impacts and lack of stressors for nearshore soft bottom habitat
- Recommended indices need to be practical and feasible

5. Workgroup Report Back, Review, and Consideration of Adoption of Proposition 50 Grant Funding priorities

Steve Bay introduced the item and summarized the outcome and recommendations of the workgroup. He reiterated that the goal is to improve the indicator matrix with more data. The challenge is to identify where we stand on each indicator and where are the greatest needs. He pointed out the workgroup recommended two tables, one for status of index development and one for data gaps.

Rich Ambrose suggested that we should prioritize habitats that don't have indices so we can have at least one for each habitat for assessment purposes.

Summary of member discussion and recommendations:

- Re-draft the workgroup summary into a draft memo to the Governing Board. Complete the draft memo by mid-August for TAC review and approval.
- Update and expand the indicator metrics. Develop a narrative summary on status of index development and major data gaps, both as attachment/reference to the Prop. 50 RFP.
- Revise the wording and identify some projects, emphasizing the indices for assessing ecological condition of habitats, especially for sandy shore, rocky intertidal, and pelagic.
- Data gaps exist for all habitats except for freshwater and soft bottom
- For climate change vulnerability assessment should think about strategies addressing cross multiple habitats.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.